CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

 A method for gathering operational metrics comprising the steps of: identifying a host within a grid environment, wherein said host is a software object;

associating a ghost agent with said host;
replicating actions of said host within said ghost agent;
determining operational metrics for at least a portion of said replicated actions;
recording said operational metrics;
moving said host within said grid environment; and,
responsively moving said ghost agent in accordance with movement of said host.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said operational metrics comprise performance metrics.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said operational metrics comprise load metrics.
- 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of: identifying a location for logging data that is external to said ghost agent; and, conveying said recorded operational metrics to said identified location.
- 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: generating test input based in part upon said recorded operational metrics.
- 6. The method of claim 5, wherein said ghost agent is deployed within a production segment of said grid environment, said method further comprising the steps of:

deploying at least one ghost agent within a test segment of said grid environment; and,

recording operational metrics relating to tests conducted within said test segment using said deployed ghost agents.

- The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of: selecting a plurality of hosts; and, for each selected host, repeating said associating step, said replicating step, and said recording step.
- 8. A method for determining operational metrics comprising the steps of: identifying a transaction comprising a plurality of actions; executing said actions within different locations of a grid environment; replicating said actions within at least one ghost agent; recording data relating to said replicated actions; and, determining operational metrics for said transaction based upon said recorded data.
- 9. The method of claim 8, wherein said operational metrics comprise performance metrics.
- 10. The method of claim 8, wherein said operational metrics comprise load metrics.
- 11. The method of claim 8, wherein said different locations exist within different grids of said grid environment.
- 12. The method of claim 8, said executing step further comprising the step of: executing said actions within a production segment of said grid environment.
- 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said transaction is executed for an application, said determining step further comprising the step of:

determining said operational metrics while actions for different applications are being executed within said production segment.

14. The method of claim 8, said executing step further comprising the step: executing said actions within a test segment of said grid environment.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said transaction is executed for an application, said determining step further comprising the step of:

executing actions for at least one different application to simulate system load resulting from said different applications.

16. A ghost agent comprising:

an interface for associating said ghost agent with a host;

a ghost log configured to record operational metrics relating to activities performed by said host; and,

a ghost controller for managing interactions between said ghost agent and a grid environment, wherein said ghost agent automatically moves within said grid environment to follow movements of said host.

17. A ghost agent of claim 16, further comprising:

a ghost identifier configured to identify said ghost agent to components within said grid environment.

18. A ghost agent of claim 16, further comprising: means for disassociating said ghost agent from said host; and, means for associating said ghost agent with a different host.

19. A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

identifying a host within a grid environment, wherein said host is a software object;

associating a ghost agent with said host;
replicating actions of said host within said ghost agent;
determining operational metrics for at least a portion of said replicated actions;
recording said operational metrics;

moving said host within said grid environment; and, responsively moving said ghost agent in accordance with movement of said host.

- 20. The machine-readable storage of claim 19, wherein said operational metrics comprise performance metrics.
- 21. The machine-readable storage of claim 19, wherein said operational metrics comprise load metrics.
- 22. The machine-readable storage of claim 19, further comprising the steps of: identifying a location for logging data that is external to said ghost agent; and, conveying said recorded operational metrics to said identified location.
- 23. The machine-readable storage of claim 19, further comprising the step of: generating test input based in part upon said recorded operational metrics.
- 24. The machine-readable storage of claim 23, wherein said ghost agent is deployed within a production segment of said grid environment, said machine-readable storage further comprising the steps of:

deploying at least one ghost agent within a test segment of said grid environment; and,

recording operational metrics relating to tests conducted within said test segment using said deployed ghost agents.

25. The machine-readable storage of claim 19, further comprising the steps of: selecting a plurality of hosts; and,

for each selected host, repeating said associating step, said replicating step, and said recording step.

26. A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

identifying a transaction comprising a plurality of actions;

executing said actions within different locations of a grid environment;

replicating said actions within at least one ghost agent;

recording data relating to said replicated actions; and,

determining operational metrics for said transaction based upon said recorded data.

- 27. The machine-readable storage of claim 26, wherein said operational metrics comprise performance metrics.
- 28. The machine-readable storage of claim 26, wherein said operational metrics comprise load metrics.
- 29. The machine-readable storage of claim 26, wherein said different locations exist within different grids of said grid environment.
- 30. The machine-readable storage of claim 26, said executing step further comprising the step:

executing said actions within a production segment of said grid environment.

31. The machine-readable storage of claim 30, wherein said transaction is executed for an application, said determining step further comprising the step of:

determining said operational metrics while actions for different applications are being executed within said production segment.

32. The machine-readable storage of claim 26, said executing step further comprising the step:

executing said actions within a test segment of said grid environment.

33. The machine-readable storage of claim 32, wherein said transaction is executed for an application, said determining step further comprising the step of:

executing actions for at least one different application to simulate system load resulting from said different applications.

34. A system for gathering operational metrics comprising the steps of:

means for identifying a host within a grid environment, wherein said host is a software object;

means for associating a ghost agent with said host;

means for replicating actions of said host within said ghost agent;

means for determining operational metrics for at least a portion of said replicated actions;

means for recording said operational metrics;

means for moving said host within said grid environment; and,

means for responsively moving said ghost agent in accordance with movement of said host.

35. A system for determining operational metrics comprising the steps of:

means for identifying a transaction comprising a plurality of actions:

means for executing said actions within different locations of a grid environment;

means for replicating said actions within at least one ghost agent;

means for recording data relating to said replicated actions; and,

means for determining operational metrics for said transaction based upon said recorded data.